

Fact Sheet

Senate Bill 1869 “An Act Relative to the Architectural Access Board (AAB)”

Primary Sponsor: Senator Timilty

Current Status of Bill: Senate Committee on Bills in Third Reading

Statute: M.G.L. Chapter 22, Section 13A

Reasons to Support Legislation:

- The bill would allow the AAB to promulgate new regulations that are in compliance with the 2010 Americans with Disabilities Act Standards.
- Currently, AAB regulations are inconsistent with the federal standards; therefore, developers must consult with multiple state and federal regulations and decipher which one applies.
- In order for the AAB to promulgate new regulations, the statute needs to be modified to remove restrictive and outdated language that prohibits the board from revising its regulations to address deficiencies.
- The result of revised regulations would be to align the MA access codes so that developers, by simply consulting and applying state access codes, would be afforded greater protection from liability.
- This statute was last substantively changed in 1990. While federal access regulations have changed multiple times since then, state regulations have fallen increasingly behind. Therefore, the proposed statutory changes would allow the AAB to remain current with any future changes in federal law by being able to promulgate new regulations through the public process without having to pursue further statutory change.
- Regulations consistent with the 2010 ADA Standards would ensure that individuals with disabilities have enhanced opportunity for meaningful employment in all newly constructed buildings.

Financial Impact: This legislation would not incur any significant costs.

Opposition: None (as far as we know)

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